

## TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

October 24, 2016

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chair  
Mr. Robert Ericson  
Mr. Henry Sayers  
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Manager

Warrants: Warrants Signed

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 6:00 p.m.

### 1) Public Comment

None.

### 2) Public Hearing: Tax Classification

Town Assessor Kelly Tolisano and Assistant Assessor Regina DiLego came before the Board and presented documentation regarding the Tax Rate Classification for Fiscal Year 2017 which included a proposed tax rate of \$120.89 per thousand of valuation. The higher than usual tax rate is occurring because of the first year addition of the high school debt exclusion and a decrease in the assessment for the Berkshire Mall. The Board reviewed the documentation. Motion 15-157. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the single Tax Rate of \$20.89 per thousand of valuation, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. John Goerlach and Henry Sayers voted out of the Rule of Necessity.[#1]

### 3) Nuisance / Dangerous Dog Complaint

Animal Control Officer Jason Costa came before the Board relative to a complaint regarding a nuisance/dangerous dog. Officer Costa provided the Board with copies of a Police Report relative to the incident on September 29, 2016. Officer Costa stated that the dog in question has bitten more than one person. Mr. Ericson asked if the dog had been quarantined and was current on vaccination. Officer Costa stated that dog had been quarantined for 10 days and was not current on vaccinations. The Town Secretary checked with the Town Clerk and no paperwork had been filed to register the dog. Officer Costa recommended labeling the dog a nuisance and gave a list of restrictions that the Board could impose on the owner of the animal. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Board has ordered previous animals that have bitten people to be muzzled. Officer Costa recommended sending notice to the owner to have a formal hearing. Mr. Sayers is concerned that the incident occurred over a month ago and the owner has not taken steps to rectify the situation. The Board would like a copy of Chapter 140 to be sent to the owner of the dog with a letter to attend the next Selectmen's meeting for a formal hearing. Motion 16-158. Motion made by Robert Ericson to deem the dog a nuisance, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.[#2]

### 4) Re-approval of Job Descriptions

Mr. Ericson presented some minor changes relative to updating the terminology in the job descriptions which Mr. Sieloff reviewed with the Board. Mr. Sieloff stated that the changes will be made with the changes highlighted and the Board can vote to approve at their next meeting. Mr. Sayers would like a job description for seasonal laborers with the Highway Department. Mr. Sieloff will present a proposed description for this position at the Board's next meeting.

### 5) Proposed increase to Annual Entertainment License (from \$85 to \$100)

Mr. Sieloff reminded the Board that they supported raising this fee at their last meeting. Motion 16-161. Motion made by Henry Sayers to increase the Annual Entertainment License Fee to \$100.00, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0.

6) Questions/Issues for Semi-Annual Joint Meeting with Lanesborough Elementary School Committee

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a list of topics the Elementary School Committee would like to discuss with the Board. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Committee would like to attend the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss. The Board agreed. Mr. Tinkham stated that the Finance Committee would like to be included in this meeting. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would also invite Mount Greylock School Committee Chair Carrie Greene as well. Mr. Ericson would like to hold this meeting in the Community Room to accommodate number of attendees.[#3]

7) Discussion on Ambulance Services and possible study

Mr. Sieloff stated that he would discuss this during his report.

8) Town Accountant Position

Mr. Sieloff introduced Patricia Hickey to the Board. Mr. Sieloff stated that he and Finance Committee Member Steve Wentworth interviewed 5 candidates. Mr. Sieloff and Mr. Wentworth stated that Mrs. Hickey was the strongest candidate. Mrs. Hickey stated that she is originally from New York City and moved to Berkshires 10 months ago for a change of lifestyle. Mrs. Hickey listed her credentials and stated that she is now living in West Stockbridge and was looking for a community-based position. Mr. Sieloff stated that he contacted her references and she was highly recommended. Mr. Wentworth stated that with her background she would be a good resource. The Board welcomed Ms. Hickey aboard.

Motion 16-159. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint Patricia Hickey as the Town Accountant/Chief Financial Officer, seconded by Henry Sayers Motion carried 3-0. Motion 16-160.

Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint to Patricia Hickey to the Sewer and Ambulance Fund Committees, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#4]

9) Settlement with abutter on landfill monitoring issue

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that the recommended settlement amount is \$10,282.15. Motion 16-162.

Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the final settlement amount of \$10,282.15 between the Town of Lanesborough and the Trybus family, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#5]

10) Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting.

None.

11) Selectmen's Items

Henry Sayers stated that the Highway Department's current sander is 22 years old and he would like to replace it with a new one since the recent truck that was purchased came in under budget. Mr. Sayers stated that the cost would be \$6,325.00 installed. Mr. Goerlach believes that the sander does not need to be replaced as it is stainless steel and should continue to work for years with minimal upkeep. Mr. Ericson stated that if the old sander just needs minimal work the Town should keep it. Mr. Ericson stated that the Energy Committee has to submit a report to the State with an update as to the status of projects. Mr. Goerlach expressed concern about a local hotel which appears to be charging daily rates of approximately \$17 and possibly turning the hotel into monthly rental units which may affect the amount of Room's Tax that the Town receives. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would look into this and report back to the Board.

12) Town Manager Report

Mr. Sieloff reviewed the ongoing efforts relative to the Ambulance service in Town. Mr. Sieloff and Mr. Sayers met with the members of the Fire Department last week and are actively trying to find ways to sustain the service. Mr. Sieloff stated that the part time DPW employee was accepted into the Fire Department and his EMT training is going well.

13) Approve Minutes

Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of October 3, 2016, seconded by Robert Ericson.  
Motion carried 3-0.

14) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] Tax Rate Classification Documentation
- [#2] Lanesborough Police Department Incident Reports
- [#3] Lanesborough Elementary School Committee Joint Meeting Topics
- [#4] Town Accountant Candidate Patricia Hickey Resume
- [#5] Trybus Settlement Negotiations Documentation

Date Approved: 11/14/16

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

*John Goertlach*

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*Robert Ericson*

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*Henry Sayers*

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